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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

SEP 26 2006

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Previously Presented)

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein in formula (1), the 3- to 10-membered non-aromatic ring group represented by  $R_{11}$  and  $R_{12}$  is a hydrocarbon ring group.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented)

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein in formula (1), the 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring group represented by  $R_{11}$  and  $R_{12}$  is an aromatic hydrocarbon group or a heterocyclic group.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented)

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein in formula (1), one of  $R_{11}$  and  $R_{12}$  is a hydrogen atom and the other one is a 3- to 10-membered non-aromatic ring group or a 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring group.

## Claim 5 (Original)

The photothermographic material of claim 4, wherein said the other one is a 5- or 6-membered non-aromatic ring group.

## Claim 6 (Original)

The photothermographic material of claim 4, wherein said the other one is a 5-membered aromatic heterocyclic group.

## Claim 7 (Previously Presented)

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein in formula (1),  $R_{13}$  is a tertiary alkyl group.

## Claim 8 (Previously Presented)

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein in formula (1),  $R_{14}$  is a primary alkyl group.

## Claim 9 (Previously Presented)

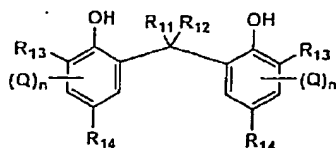
The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein in formula (1), one of  $R_{11}$  and  $R_{12}$  is a hydrogen atom and the other one is a 5-membered aromatic heterocyclic group,  $R_{13}$  is t-butyl or 1-methylcyclohexyl, and  $R_{14}$  is methyl or 2-hydroxyethyl.

## Claims 10-14 (Cancelled)

## Claim 15 (Currently Amended)

A silver salt photothermographic material comprising on a support a light-sensitive layer comprising a light-sensitive emulsion containing light-insensitive organic silver salt grains of behenic acid ~~an aliphatic carboxylic acid having 10 to 30 carbon atoms~~ and light-sensitive silver halide grains, a reducing agent for silver ions and a binder, wherein the reducing agent for silver ions is a compound represented by the following formula (1) and the light-sensitive layer further comprises a hindered phenol which is a compound represented by the following formula (3), and wherein a molar ratio of the compound represented by formula (3) to the compound represented by formula (1) is 0.001 to 0.2:

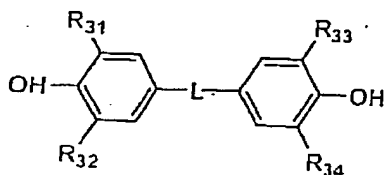
formula (1)



wherein R<sub>11</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are each a hydrogen atom, a 3- to 10-membered non-aromatic ring group or a 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring group, provided that R<sub>11</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are not hydrogen atoms at the same time; R<sub>13</sub> and R<sub>14</sub> are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl

group, a cycloalkyl group, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group; Q is a group capable of being substituted on a benzene ring; n is 0, 1 or 2;

formula (3)



wherein  $R_{31}$ ,  $R_{32}$ ,  $R_{33}$  and  $R_{34}$  are each an alkyl or cycloalkyl group; L is -S- or -CHR<sub>35</sub>, in which  $R_{35}$  is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl or cycloalkyl group.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented)

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein at least one of  $R_{31}$ ,  $R_{32}$ ,  $R_{33}$  and  $R_{34}$  is a group selected from the group consisting of iso-propyl, iso-nonyl, t-butyl, t-amyl, t-octyl, cyclohexyl, 1-methyl-cyclohexyl and adamantly.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented)

The photothermographic material of claim 15, wherein  $R_{35}$  is a hydrogen atom.

Claim 18 (Canceled)